

SJR Recirculation Pilot Study

Need

- Mid-July, critically low water levels in the San Joaquin River, from Vernalis to Mossdale.
- SDWA farmers along the lower San Joaquin could not divert water due to insufficient water levels to support their pumps.

Proposal

- Release 200 to 300 cfs from the CVP Delta-Mendota Canal to the Newman Wasteway and back to the San Joaquin River above the Merced River confluence.
- Provisions in SWRCB Decision 1641 that authorizes DWR and USBR to divert water to ensure that water levels will not be lowered to the injury of southern Delta water users. SWRCB can authorize short-term diversions for the purpose of conducting a recirculation study.

Benefits of Pilot Study

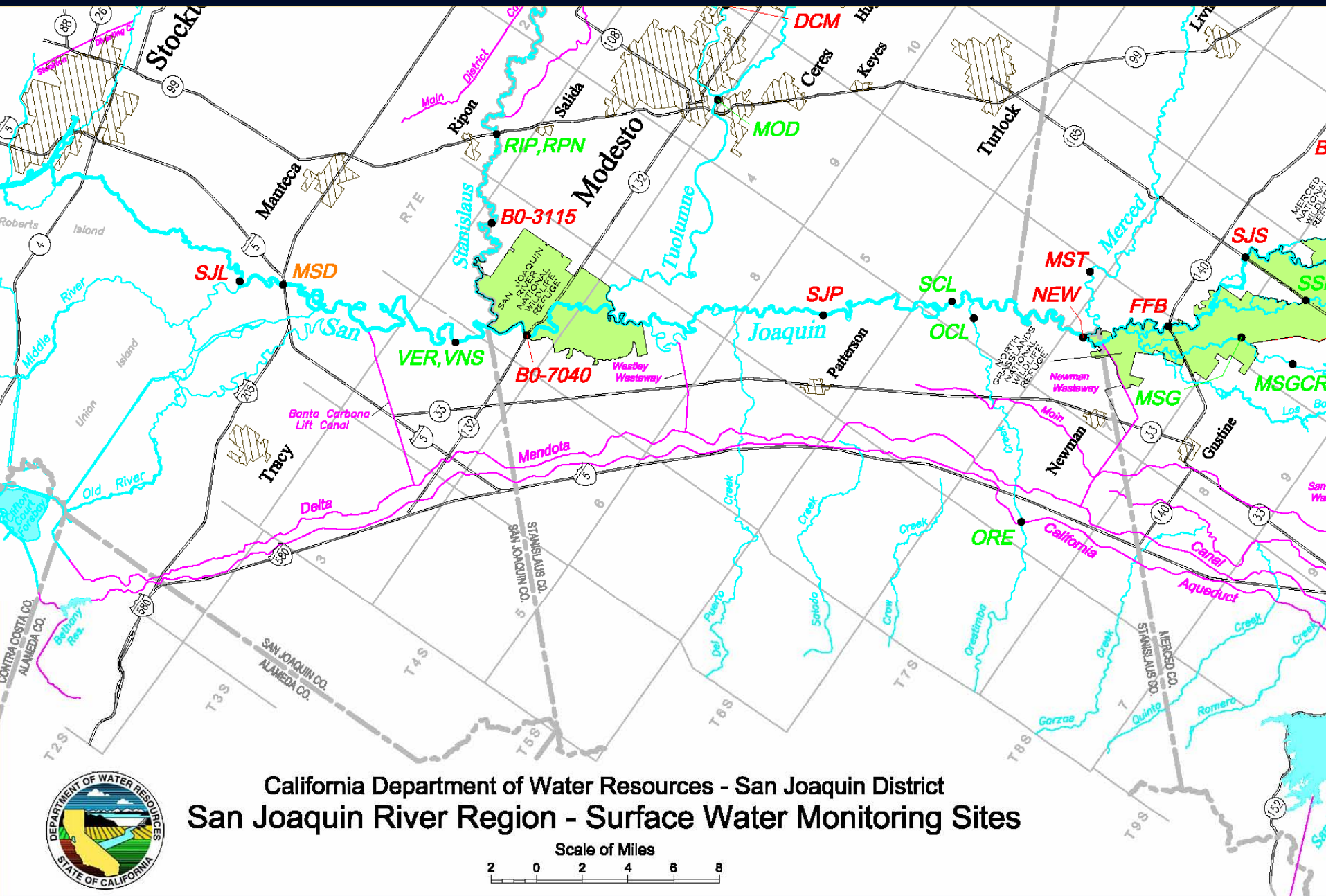
- Increased water levels available for diversion.
- Higher flows usually provide water quality benefits such as lower salinity levels and higher dissolved oxygen levels downstream.
- Collection of valuable information about the feasibility of long-term recirculation efforts.

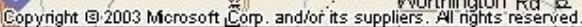
Issues

- Environmental impacts from increased flows in the Newman Wasteway?
 - Mobilization of sediments and organics in channel. Impacts of toxins and ecoli-bacteria entering the San Joaquin River.
- Permitting requirements?
- Costs – who pays for this water?
- Available DWR/USBR pumping capacity?

Cooperating Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
- Metropolitan Water District
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority
- Stockton East Water District
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- US Fish and Wildlife Service







Hwy 33

Wastewater
Treatment Ponds

S.R.

Newman

Newman Westway

DMC

Aerial Photos Circa 1998
from terraserver-usa.com

DMC; Wasteway gates structure to the right.



DMC control structure near Wasteway gates.



Wasteway DMC gates.



Wasteway, looking downstream of the DMC gates.



Concrete lined section looking upstream on the Wasteway closer to the DMC.



Concrete lined section looking downstream on the Wasteway closer to the DMC.







Farmers bridge, pipeline and another bridge looking downstream on the Wasteway.



Farmers bridge on the Wasteway.











Beaver dam on the Wasteway.



Beaver dam on the Wasteway.



Downstream of beaver dam on the Wasteway. Lots of vegetation and wildlife.



Looking upstream the Wasteway near the confluence with the SJR.



Looking upstream of the Wasteway at the confluence with the SJR.





Confluence of SJR and Newman Wasteway. Note the transition area.





Merced River

Hills Ferry Road

Newman
Wastewater
Treatment
Facility

Newman
Wasteway

SJR

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from tarrserver.usa.com